it went up to Rs. 1.22 crores in 1995. Therefore, it is not much when compared to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 83.

*83. [*The questioner (Shri Bhagaban Majhi) was absent for answer, vide col. 26 infra*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 84.

Signing the CTBT

*84. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:†

SMT. VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

(b) if so, which countries have so far indicated their intention to sign the treaty;

(c) whether it is a fact that while signing the treaty some restrictions are likely to be placed on non-nuclear weapon countries and also to legitimise the possession and show of nuclear strength by nuclear weapon countries; and

(d) if so, what is Government's precise stand about signing the Treaty?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Negotiations on Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) have been underway at the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva since January 1994. A consensus resolution on Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty was adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 1995 which *inter alia,* calls for the conclusion of a CTBT "so as to enable its signature by the outset of the 51st session of the General Assembly". The negotiations have made progress though some important issues are yet to be resolved. India has actively participated in the on-going negotiations and has put forward a number of principled proposals consistent with our policy, both on CTBT and on Nuclear Disarmament. These proposals place the CTBT in the context of the goal of global nuclear disarmament. The decision on signing a CTBT will depend upon the outcome of the negotiations.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Sushil Kumar Sambhaji Rao Shinde.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Sir, a single reply was given for all parts, from (a) to (d). But, in part (b), I specifically asked the names of the countries which had so far indicated their intention to sign the treaty. But, it has not been replied to. Sir, the negotiations have made progress, though some important issues are yet to be resolved. I would like to know the issues which have not been solved so far.

Secondly, they say that a number of principled proposals, consistent with our policy, have been submitted. What are those proposals? Sir, we have, from the beginning, before every forum, made the position very clear. A decade back, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, moved the United Nations on 'Nuclear Powers Free World'. The C.T.B.T. is only one step in that direction. While there was some progress in that direction when the big powers agreed to withdraw or destroy stage by stage the nuclear warheads strategically installed by them, this received a serious setback when France and China indulged in a series of nuclear tests. On the other hand, the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty has been extended indefinitely by the vested interests, interested countries. On 26th Febraury, the hon. President of our country, Shri Shankar Dayal Sharmaji had addressed the Joint Session. In his speech, he noted that this indefinite extension of NPT was an obstacle for universal nuclear disarmament. May I know the steps being contemplated by the Government for removal of this obstacle and for paving the way for universal disarmament?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the negotiations on CTBT are going on at the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva. Therefore, it is not possible to indicate the names of the countries which are going to sign the CTBT unless the current negotiations are concluded. I have pointed out in the text of my reply that the mandate of the United Nations requires the negotiators in the CD Conference to conclude their negotitions before the 51st Session of the United Nations General Assembly which begins sometime in September so that the Treaty could be made available. So far as the present time-frame is concerned, perhaps the negotiations would

continue up to 31st March. Thereafter, there will be a gap and the negotiations would resume from mid-May and would continue up to 30th June. We do hope that there will be some progress. But it is difficult to say at what level and at what point. This is so far as the present state of negotiations is concerned.

So far as the views of the Government are concerned, I think I need not explain it because only the other day, while replying to the debate on the President's Address, the Prime Minister had categorically stated the position of India in so far as it concerned the CTBT. We never consider CTBT as an end in itself. It is only the means and it should be a step to achieve the ultimate objective of total nuclear disarmament. This has been quite clearly spelt out and articulated by the Prime Minister himself and, therefore, I need not add anything to what he has said.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Sir, we were happy to hear the statement made in this august House by the Prime Minister. He said that we should be very careful because countries like China and France were undertaking a series of nuclear explosions, one after the other. Despite the fact that international consensus has been evolved for banning nuclear weapons testing and for halting production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons purposes, the United States of America, after the Brown's amendment to the Pressler law which bars the US arms supply to countries engaged in the production of nuclear weapons, is preparing itself to supply arms to Pakistan.

May I, therefore, know the steps being taken by the Government to prevent this blatant violation of the Pressler law in the face of hectic preparations by Pakistan for production of nuclear arms with the help of supplies from China? May I also request the hon. Minister to reply to the very important question about Brown's amendment to the Pressler law?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the Pressler amendment is concerned, as the hon. Members are aware it is a US law whereby the US President has to certify, in so far as the issue of arms supplies and other aid is concerned, that Pakistan does not possess the nuclear explosive device. Prior to 1990, the US President was in a position to give this certificate to the Senate and the Congress. But since 1990, the US President is not in a position to give this certificate. As a result, aid and arms supplies to Pakistan were stopped since then. Now they amended their own law to facilitate supply of military hardware worth $ 368 millions to Pakistan by providing a one-time waiver of the application of the Pressler law. It clearly demonstrates the implications: that the American President is not in a position to certify that Pakistan does not possess the nuclear explosive device. In other words, it is a recognition of the fact that Pakistan is clandestinely acquiring the nuclear explosive device.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Sir, the President, in his Address to the Joint Session of Parliament, reaffirmed India's commitment to the objective of achieving total nuclear disarmament within a specific time-frame. Our hon. Prime Minister has observed in the House the other day that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Currently under negotiation, must have direct linkage with programmes aimed at eventual elimination of all nuclear weaponry leading to the ultimate goal of disarmament, and that, such moves as supply of nuclear enrichment equipment like the Ring Magnet by China to Pakistan to help the latter develop nuclear weaponry was a positive proof of failure of the N.P.T. May I know what steps have been taken by the Government towards bringing about complete disarmament and a universal Non-Proliferation Treaty? May I also know whether the Government have been working towards bringing about Nuclear-No-First-use Agreement? May I know, what steps have been taken in this directions?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the question of China providing equipment to Pakistan is concerned, the reaction by a section of the American Congress and the Senate is already known to the Members. A large number of Congressmen and Senators have suggested to President Bill Clinton to stop the one-time waiver on the Pressler Amendment through the Brown Amendment and to facilitate supply of military hardware to Pakistan.

In regard to the implication of the indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty as it has again been clearly pointed out by the Prime Minister, it has created a situation where the five permanent nuclear-weapon states will continue to have nuclear weapons and they can vertically expand them refine them stockpile them—and with the latest technologies, a physical test is not required, it could be conducted on the computer itself. Therefore, in our assessment of the situation, the indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty has not helped nuclear disarmament within a definitive time-frame, for which in 1988 the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi placed his proposal in the Special Session of the Disarmament Conference.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, we as a nation have always been pleading for a nuclear—weapon-free world. As our Government has rightly taken the view, the C.T.B.T. doesn't lead to a nuclear-weapon-free world. The nuclear weapon states have been practising hypocrisy. Look at France! It recently conducted six tests and the President of France goes to Washington, hugs Bill Clinton, and says, "I am now for the C.T.B.T.", because these six tests have enabled France to go in for computer-simulated nuclear tests.

Sir, we are all one on this. There is absolute national consensus on the C.T.B.T. So, like we passed a Resolution on Kashmir when China came to commit aggression, I would like to propose to the Government that the Parliament should pass a resolution unanimously on this question — I am not doubting the will of the Government, but — to tell the world as to how the whole nation stands behind the Government on this question. Will the Government take the initiative in this regard?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I entirely agree with the hon. Member that on this issue there is a broad consensus and when we had the privilege of discussing the C.T.B.T. — the N.P.T., not the C.T.B.T. — on the floor of this House, we received very wide support. In regard to the passage of the resolution, as the hon. Member is aware, there are certain technicalities and as the Leader of the House is just not present here, I will talk to him and see to it if it is possible to have a resolution in both the Houses of Parliament.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, there are no technical difficulties. All of us agree and we can pass a resolution. A motion can be tabled from the Chair and we can have a discussion also.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: That we can discuss, not here, but in the chamber.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Plantation Programmes

*83. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the different plantation programmes under implementation during the Eighth Five Year Plan period in different states;

(b) the progress of those programmes as on date;

(c) the steps taken to implement those programmes effectively; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) Annual targets are fixed for afforestation and tree-planting activities under the 20-point Programme for each of the States/Union Territories. These activities are carried out under various schemes of the Central and State Governments. An illustrative list of such schemes is given in Statement-I (*see* below). The State Governments/UT administrations implement these schemes. The annual targets and achievements for the period 1992-93 to 1995-96 is given in statement-II (*see* below). The progress of all afforestation and tree planting activities taken up under point 16(a) & (b) of the 20 Point Programme is monitored regulary at the level of Central Government. Information on location-wise plantations for each State/Union territory undertaken every year is also kept in the libraries of Parliament and the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Sample checks are done of the plantation work in approximately 50 districts on a random basis through independent agencies every year.